

CACHE OF SLATE IN DARKE COUNTY, WEST-CENTRAL OHIO

by
Elaine Holzapfel
Regional Collaborator

I found this cache of slate in the summer of 1993. I didn't recognize these slate fragments as part of a cache until the winged bannerstone preform, shown in Figure 1, appeared. Closer examination revealed that most of the slate pieces showed modification such as peck marks, grooves, or flaked edges, and possibly represent various stages in the manufacture of bannerstones. The most heavily-worked slate pieces were concentrated on a rise 20 feet in diameter, although

plow-broken slate was scattered over an area of hundreds of feet. The site has now been destroyed by a housing development and lies beneath Meadowgreen Street in Greenville.

The small adze made of greenstone in Figure 2 was found adjacent to the preform in Figure 1 and was picked up simultaneously. The adze, however, probably dates to a later culture.

Slate is common in glaciated parts of Ohio, having been deposited by the Wisconsin glacier 14,000 years ago. Although a local resident reported a boulder of banded slate half the size of a Volkswagen, the raw material for this cache was probably picked up as water-worn rocks weathering out of the banks of Greenville Creek.



Figure 1 (Holzapfel). Preform for winged bannerstone.



Figure 2 (Holzapfel). Worked slate from cache and greenstone adze.

Necrology

Mary Virginia Blum, wife of long-time ASO member Walter Blum, passed away January 29, 2010. Our heartfelt condolences to Walter and the Blum family